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## RECORD OF NEGRO FOLK-LORE.

AFRICA AND AMERICA. Rev. R. H. Nassau's "Fetichism in West Africa" (N. Y., 1904, pp. xix, 389) contains a brief section (pp. 273-276) on "The American Negro Voodoo." According to the author, "Vudu, or Odoism, is simply African fetichism transplanted to American soil." As a superstition it "has spread itself among our ignorant white masses as the 'Hoodoo.'" He also thinks that "Uncle Remus's mystic tales of 'Br'er Rabbit' . . . are the folklore that the slave brought with him from his African home." The glossary contains such more or less familiar words as *bwanga* (medicine), *gree-gree* (fetich amulet), *gumbo* (okra), *mbenda* (=pinder "ground-nut"), etc.

JAMAICA. The collection of "Folk-Lore of the Negroes of Jamaica" (see this Journal, vol. xvii. p. 296) is continued in "Folk-Lore" (vol. xv. 1904, pp. 450-456). Items of superstition under the rubrics, relating to the human body; friendship, marriage, and lovers; birth and death; marriage, courtship, and lovers; death, the corpse, the funeral; vegetation; the body; births, babies, and children; miscellaneous,—chiefly from the southern districts of St. Andrew. Many interesting omens are given. Of "a man of mediocrity in the spiritual matters of life," it is said that he "becomes a 'rolling calf' after death, for he is too good for hell and too wicked for heaven." There is reminiscence of African witchcraft in the idea that "if a certain plant called *wangra* is in a provision ground, every thief that visits the field will die." The folk-lore of the mole is quite extensive: A mole on the lip signifies a lying tongue; on the abdomen, edacity [*sic*]; on the leg, love of travel; on the neck, wealth; one on the neck also indicates that the person will be hanged, and one on the wrist that he will be handcuffed. Of April Fool's Day, it is said that "All people who are born on the first day of April grow up fools." People who die unbaptized "become wandering spirits."

A. F. C.